after expressing His Highness's patriotic ambition to secure for Travancore its rightful place in the front rank of Indian States, was pleased to make a few momentous announcements. These were the appointment of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar as Legal and Constitutional Adviser, the donation of one lakh of rupees out of the privy purse to serve as initial capital for a land mortgage bank, the gift of half a lakh of rupees for starting a home for the destitute and the infirm, and the promise to place the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly on a statutory basis with enlarged functions and powers.

The Round Table Conference.

3. Sir Mirza M. Ismail, Dewan of Mysore, had been nominated by the Government of India to represent the South Indian States at the first Round Table Conference in London and Dewan Bahadur T. Raghaviah, was with the previous approval of this Government, selected to instruct him on behalf of Travancore, Cochin and Pudukotta. For the second Round Table Conference held in London in October 1931, Mr. Raghaviah was nominated by the Government of India to represent Travancore and the other South Indian States.

The Indian States Committee.

4. As you are all aware, one direct result of the second Round Table Conference held in London was the appointment of the Indian States Committee "to explore more fully the specific financial problems arising in connection with certain individual States." The Committee, presided over by the Rt. Hon'ble J. C. C. Davidson, arrived at Trivandrum on the evening of the 12th February last. A portion of the party, led by the Rt. Hon'ble the Lord Hastings, proceeded by the backwaters and inspected the ports and customs houses at Alleppey and Quilon. On the 13th and 14th February, the Committee held conferences with the Dewan and Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar representing the Travancore Government. The Committee was furnished with memoranda dealing with the problems special to Travancore. Being a maritime State, Travancore carries on sea-borne trade on an extensive scale, and the importance of 'customs' as a source of State revenue cannot be over-emphasised. Naturally, the case for the revision of the compensation amount payable under the Interportal Convention of 1865 came up for prominent discussion, and received the close attention of the Committee. The immunities and privileges enjoyed by Travancore in respect of export duty, salt, tobacco, the State postal system and coinage engaged the notice of the Committee. The subject of cash contributions now paid by Travancore to the British Government was examined. The attention of the Committee was also drawn to the anomalies and inconveniences arising from the existence, within Travancore territory, of a few isolated areas under British occupation, *viz.*, Anjengo, Tangacherry, and the Shertallai *pattam* lands. It is hoped that the just and legitimate claims urged on behalf of the Travancore Government will receive due recognition at the hands of the

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Committee, and that the State will be enabled to play its role as one of the leading partners in the future federal Indian polity.

Introductory.

5. Copies of the *Administration Report*, the *Statistical Volume* and the *Report of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries* for the last Malabar year have, as usual, been furnished to you. Copies have also been placed in your hands of the *Statement of Action* taken on representations made at the last session and on undisposed of representations pending from the twenty-second and subsequent sessions. That voluminous statement embodies the unceasing and systematic endeavours that are being made by the Government and their officers to meet the wishes of popular representatives, to satisfy the real needs of the public and to implement the promises made in this House. I need hardly assure you that the representations still pending disposal will receive prompt attention.

It is customary on this occasion to review briefly the salient features of the administration during the year that has elapsed since the last session and to indicate the more important measures that are under contemplation. Having assumed charge of the administration less than a month ago, I need hardly remind you that the survey relates to the work of my predecessor in office.

Personnel.

6. His Highness the Maha Raja was pleased to appoint me Dewan from the 7th Kumbham in succession to Dewan Bahadur V. S. Subrahmanya Aiyar. Since the last session of the Assembly, several changes have taken place in the higher ranks of the service. Rao Bahadur A. Venkatarama Aiyar, after officiating as Dewan till the 19th Dhanu 1106, went on leave and retired from service on the 2nd Meenam 1106, after serving the Government in various capacities with conspicuous ability for over twenty years. Mr. R. Krishna Pillai, Acting Land Revenue Commissioner, retired from service on the 18th Chingam 1107, having served the Government for nearly thirty-three years in various responsible offices. Mr. P. Gomatinayakam Pillai, Excise Commissioner, retired on the 17th Tulam 1107, with a long and unblemished record of service extending over thirty-two years. Mr. C. O. Madhavan, Secretary to Government, has been appointed to the vacancy from the 5th Kumbham 1107. Mr. I. C. Chacko, Director of Industries, was succeeded by Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai from the 10th Dhanu 1107. On the conversion of the Law College into a whole-time institution in Mithunam last, Mr. E. J. John retired from the Principalship after a long and distinguished service of over thirty years in a quasi-official capacity. The Senior Professor, Mr. M. K. Govinda Pillai, was appointed Principal. Travancore had recently to mourn the loss of one of its most respected and eminent citizens, Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar. As Deputy President of the Legislative Council in three Councils, as Chairman of various committees, such as the Travancore University Committee, Mr. Krishna Aiyangar did yeoman service to the State.

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